

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01126 051659Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----060907Z 019430 /12
R 051607Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6387

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1126

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF CLARK CLIFFORD

REF: STATE 098778

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED CLIFFORD VISIT BRIEFLY WITH ABDESSELAM 4 MAY. ABDESSELAM AWARE OF CLIFFORD PLANS TO ARRIVE MAY 12. HE APPEARED UNSURE OF WHETHER IT WOULD BE HIM OR NEW MINISTER OF ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICALS (AND STILL SONATRACH PRESIDENT) GHOZALI WHO WOULD BE COORDINATING VISIT. HIS UNCERTAINTY REFLECTS GENERAL CONFUSION ABOUT WHO IS RUNNING ALGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WAKE OF RECENT GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP. ONE OF ABDESSELAM'S SUBORDINATES TELEPHONED 5 MAY TO REQUEST THAT EMBASSY PASS ON ANY INFORMATION WE HAVE ON VISIT. WE RESPONDED WITH CONTENTS OF REFTEL, NOTING SPECIFICALLY THAT CLIFFORD PROPOSED CONTACT ABDESSELAM FROM LONDON WHEN HIS PLANS ARE FIRM.

2. EMBASSY PREPARED MEET WITH CLIFFORD AT HIS CONVENIENCE. WE HAVE CONTACTED MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO ALERT IT THAT CLIFFORD MIGHT WANT TO VISIT LAMBESE TO SEE SALBY; CONSUL PREPARED ACCOMPANY IF CLIFFORD WISHES. PLEASE ADVISE ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE.

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3. CLIFFORD SHOULD BE AWARE THAT HIS THURSDAY ARRIVAL WILL PLACE HIM HERE ON FIRST DAY OF ALGERIAN ARAB WEEKEND AND, WHILE EMBASSY AT HIS DISPOSAL, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO SEE ANY ALGERIANS UNTIL SATURDAY, MAY 14, FIRST WORKDAY OF ALGERIAN WEEK. LYNE

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Message Attributes

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